

BIG LOSS TO NATION, PUBLIC MEN'S VIEW

Mitchell's Former Associates
and Political Opponents
Join in Eulogies.

EAGER TO GO TO FRANCE

Among First Advocates of
Preparedness and Foresaw
Our Part in War.

No individual loss or personal tragedy
since the war began has affected New
York so keenly as the death in military
air service of Major John Purroy
Mitchell.

Within an hour after the news had
been flashed from Lake Charles, La.,
that the former Mayor had been killed
by a fall from his fast scout machine
while flying over Germany, there was
sadness throughout the city, grief
which seemed to be personal to every
household.

The expression of this grief revealed,
it appeared, a thought which seemed to
be at the back of men's minds—was it
not a shame that the life of a man so
competent and experienced and willing
was exposed to the extraordinary perils
of aviation service? Invariably accom-
panying the tributes of admiration and
respect which were heard everywhere
was the regret that Major Mitchell had
not chosen to serve his country in some
service where his remarkable abilities
could have been preserved.

Men who had been his closest asso-
ciates in public office and private life
knew that there were certain facts con-
nected with Major Mitchell's fitness
which should have deterred him from
that perilous branch of military service.
Twelve years ago, the ex-Mayor's
friends were aware, Mr. Mitchell, on a
visit to South America, was attacked by
fever which put into his system a
poison which never could be
wholly eradicated. From time to time
aftermath of this fever was expressed in
severe headaches, blinding headaches,
which caused the most intense pain and
left Mr. Mitchell very weak. He suf-
fered from these attacks many times
while he was Commissioner of Accounts,
President of the Board of Aldermen,
Assistant Corporation Counsel, Collec-
tor of the Port and Mayor.

On the day he was sworn into office
as Mayor, Mr. Mitchell excused himself
from the public reception and retired to
his private office. There, Lieut. William
Kennel, his bodyguard, found him en-
during agonies. As Lieut. Kennel of-
fered assistance, Mr. Mitchell fell to the
floor from a sofa and suffered prostrations
of pain for many minutes. The recur-
rence of these attacks at times while he
was attending to public business, such as
presiding over meetings of the Board of
Estimate and over hearings at the City
Hall, was well known to his friends,
who quite well understood that the ex-
pression of manner, a sharpness of speech
sometimes displayed by the Mayor were
due altogether to the pain that wrenched
him.

Struck by Shots in Belgium.

The first gun fired in Belgium struck
John Purroy Mitchell to the imperative
need of preparation for war by the
United States and to the immediate ne-
cessity of defining patriotism. His labors
along those lines are familiar to every
reader of this Sun, but perhaps his per-
sonal eagerness to serve his country was
not so well understood, for there were
those who said that Mr. Mitchell was
going for political ends.

His friends knew that he was doing
his duty as he saw it, always with an
eye to the future when he might put on
a uniform and fight for his country. His
long time friends, however, Secretary
Theodore D. Roosevelt, said yesterday
that Mr. Mitchell was very unwilling to
run for Mayor in 1917, that his whole
mind was fixed on the war, and that he
accepted the nomination because acceptance
was pointed out to him as a duty not to be
put aside. The minute he knew he was be-
lieved that his training at Plattburgh
had qualified him for military service, he
was willing, he would have been willing,
to lead men. He would have been willing,
he told this friend, to take a commis-
sion as Second Lieutenant of in-
fantry.

No such commission was available to
him, and in January he obtained a com-
mission as Major in the Signal Corps.
Probably no one that knew Mr. Mitchell
expected he would enter the service as
an aviator. They believed that he would
be trained in and assigned to "ground
aviation," which has important duties of
its own.

When he announced his intention to
become an aviator an acquaintance
asked him if he wasn't afraid of being
attacked by a headache while in the air.
He confessed that apprehension.

Headaches' Danger Foreseen.

"If I get a real bad headache while
up in the clouds," he said simply, "I'll
be all up with me."
There was nothing in the early news
report of the circumstances of his death
over the flying field that gave an ink-
ling of just why Mr. Mitchell fell, but
his friends in New York could not but
escape the fear that the accident was
made possible by the physical weakness
to which he was subject.

Mr. Mitchell's friends knew too that
he was counting the days until he could
see service in France. Some of them
said yesterday that the Mayor himself
was perfectly aware that there was
little likelihood of his returning, but
that the thought never dampened his
ardor.

Mayor Hylan, the late Mayor's suc-
cessful opponent at the last election,
received at about 10:30 A. M. the news
of Major Mitchell's death. He said that
he was deeply shocked. Immediately
he ordered the flags upon the City Hall
lowered to half staff, and himself gave
out the following statement:

"The news of the death of John Purroy
Mitchell is a great personal shock to
me. My sincere sympathies go out to
Mrs. Mitchell in this great bereave-
ment. Proper steps will be taken by
the officials of the city and the
public generally to pay every respect
to the late Mayor."

William M. Bennett, who procured the
Republican nomination against Mr.
Mitchell in 1917 and who was a con-
stant at the polls in November, confined
himself to this expression:

"It was a great shock to me. I
learned of his death on the way to my
office. That is all I can say."

McClellan Expresses Grief.

Col. George B. McClellan, former
Mayor, and under whom John Purroy
Mitchell made his start up the pathway
to political fame, expressed grief, say-
ing:

"John Mitchell started in life with me
as Commissioner of Accounts during my
second term. He conducted his work
most admirably. I learned to know him
very well, and was exceedingly fond of

him. He was a very able man and a
faithful public servant. I am very much
displeased to hear the news. While I
disagreed with Mr. Mitchell in many
things, I was, nevertheless, fond of him
personally. It is impossible to say what
his future might have been, but he cer-
tainly died a gallant death."

Charles E. Hughes, a close friend of
the late Mayor, said:

"I am deeply shocked. Ex-Mayor
Mitchell was a gallant soldier, and will
always be remembered for his sterling
qualities and for his efficient service to
this city."

Splendid Tribute From Dowling.

Frank L. Dowling, President of the
Board of Aldermen and who had been
one of Mr. Mitchell's principal political
opponents, paid a splendid tribute:

"John Mitchell was a man who did
not know what fear was. I talked with
him many times about his entrance into
the aviation service, and to my words of
caution his only answer was that he did
not care what happened, but that he
would not want his wife and mother to
suffer. In a talk with him just before
he started to begin training for the avia-
tion service I suggested to him that his
services might be larger in some other
branch of war work, but he shook his
head, saying:

"If I die it doesn't matter when or
how. A man could not die more glori-
ously than for his country. He was
what I would call a game man in every
sense, and he was as plucky as he was
game. I knew him intimately for years
and added him to my list of men who
as to the manner of handling municipal
affairs, but I always found him ready to
listen and to counsel with me."

George A. Fanny, associated with the
late Mayor for years in public office, re-
ceived the news at Bolton Landing, Lake
George, where he had gone for a brief
holiday. He said there:

"I regarded John Mitchell as one of
the finest types of public officer that the
city has ever known. He laid the
foundation for better things in New
York from which no matter how slowly,
a greater future for the city must be
built. He was full of courage, manli-
ness and fitness of character. Young
as he was, he was splendidly capable, serv-
ing his country in this conspicuous way,
his coming back would have meant a
mighty factor added to the life of the
city which would have learned to value
him even more than before."

Loss to Nation, Says Outbridge.

Eugenius H. Outbridge, president of
the Merchants Association, said:

"Words cannot express how distressed
I am at the news of Mr. Mitchell's death.
A splendid young life has gone out, and
one that held rare possibilities for pub-
lic service of a high order. I considered
Mr. Mitchell the highest type of man
both in his political and personal char-
acter. He was the kind of man who
never wavers or lowers his ideals. His
death is a loss to the nation as well as
to New York."

Gen. R. Straus said: "I regard the
death of John Purroy Mitchell as a na-
tional calamity. He represented the
highest type of America's young man-
hood—fearlessly upright, a patriot in
heart and in deed."

George W. Perkins, an admirer of
Mr. Mitchell, said:

"I know of no higher tribute I can pay
than to say, now that he has left us,
what I said when he reluctantly con-
sented to run for Mayor. I said that he
was a man of high character and of brilliant
attainments. He was the best of friends.
In my opinion he was one of the best
Mayors New York ever had."

Lamar Hardy, former Corporation
Counsel, added the following tribute:

"In the death of Mayor Mitchell the
city has lost a splendid soldier and the
cause of good government a courageous
leader. He died as he lived, serving to
the utmost that which he knew to be
right."

During his term as Mayor he chafed
under the responsibility of his office be-
cause it prevented him from enlisting
in the army. He saw with peculiar clearness
the necessity of putting the entire strength
of the country into the war, and long be-
fore he was elected Mayor he had been
talking and fought for adequate prepa-
rations.

"When he entered the service he did
so excitedly, and the day he was sworn
into active service, it is particularly
tragic that he could not have lived to
realize that hope."

John Mitchell has given final proof of
the sincerity of his devotion to his coun-
try. The sorrow of his friends is a
proud sorrow."

Fought for His Convictions.

Stanley J. Quinn, also a former aid,
had this to say:

"Mayor Mitchell was honest in his
convictions and fearless in fighting for
them. He was a soldier in spirit long
before he put on a uniform. No one
could get close to him without admiring
his directness of purpose and his hatred
of show. To secure his support in
any policy or measure it was only nec-
essary to show that they were right."

"On one occasion he called a confer-
ence to determine what course should

be pursued in regard to a certain propo-
sition, and some one ventured to sug-
gest that while the measure was prob-
ably unobjectionable he should oppose
it for reasons of expediency."

"I didn't ask you what was expedi-
ent," Mr. Mitchell said. "I asked you
what was right."

Police Commissioner Richard Enright
said:

"The army has lost a brave, highly
intelligent and most efficient officer in
the untimely death of John Purroy
Mitchell. He was a distinguished, able
public official, and he left behind a re-
cord which might well be emulated by the
young men of America."

GEN. MARCH SURE OF GREAT ENEMY DRIVE

Chief of Staff Says German
Delay Is Due to Re-
organization.

PRaises VAUX ATTACK

American Assaults Nicely
Planned, He Asserts—Gas
Service Improved.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.
WASHINGTON, July 6.—The German
high command is reorganizing its forces
to resume the drive on the western
front, according to Gen. Peyton C.
March, Chief of Staff, who explained the
past week's military activities to the
newspaper correspondents this morning.

"It is perfectly evident that this de-
lay is preparatory to a heavy assault
in force," he said, "and the present con-
dition of affairs does not mean anything
but that they are reorganizing their
troops, filling up losses and preparing to
try it again."

Gen. March described the attacks being
made by the allied and American forces
on the enemy as "ribbing." He referred
to the successful American attack on
Vaux on July 1 as "very nicely planned."

The Ninth and Twenty-third reg-
iments furnished the infantry contingent.
Gen. March added, and the Twelfth, Fif-
teenth and Seventeenth regiments of
Field Artillery supported the attack.

"These troops form a part of our sec-
ond division, which is under command of
Major-Gen. Omar Bundy," Gen. March
continued. "The successes attained have
been consolidated and subsequent at-
tacks of the Germans have not been suf-
ficient to cause our withdrawal from any
terrain which has been occupied."

The matter of the use of gas in our
service has recently been consolidated,"
Gen. March said, "has been an-
nounced to the press by the chief of
staff. We call the Chemical Warfare Service
under Major-Gen. Sibert, and this under
Presidential order has taken over the
bureau of mines and experiment in
heretofore conducted by a great number
of agencies and is now being pressed
forward under Gen. Sibert into a very
large and important section of army
work. Chemical service in France was
formerly called the gas service."

"Gen. Pershing has been directed to
make his organization conform to the
organization adopted here, and the
Chemical Warfare Service is the title
now given to that section in France
also. In that connection, the tribute
which has been paid to the fine work of
our chemists under the Bureau of Mines
is thoroughly deserved. They have
really done unusually good work, but the
work now coming out of the section
head will show the fine results achieved
from unity of command everywhere. In
order to have success in modern war
you cannot have four or five men doing
the same thing."

"I regret exceedingly the untimely
death of Major Mitchell. He lost his
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Mitchell's death last night, said:

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sympathy and concern to Mrs. Mitchell
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course, Mr. Mitchell died as gallantly
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Mr. J. P. Morgan said:

"Major Mitchell was a most useful and
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State Senator Charles C. Lockwood
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He was familiar with every phase of the
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Recruiting for Jewish Legion.

Boston, July 6.—A drive for recruits
for the Jewish Legion, which is to gar-
rison Palestine, was started in New
England to-day as a part of the national
campaign conducted under the
direction of the Jewish Palestine Legion
Committee. The drive is led by a com-
mittee headed by Dr. Hyman Morrison
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The War Industries Board

WASHINGTON, D. C.

request the Retail Merchants of New York to adopt the following rules in the conduct of their business:

- 1—The restriction of deliveries to not more than one trip a day over each route.
- 2—Limiting to three days the time a customer may retain merchandise in possession in order to enjoy the return privilege.
- 3—The restriction of special deliveries.

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B. Altman & Co.

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Also there are Travel Goods in leather; Toilet Articles; Stationery of all sorts; and a large assortment of Cameras and Photographic Requisites.

(First Floor)

A Special Offering of Women's Black Silk Dresses

(fine quality)

at \$78.00

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Unusual Values

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Bathing Dresses and Suits

specialty priced, as quoted:

SILK BATHING DRESSES

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Silk poplin	\$8.85
Taffeta	10.50
Satin or Taffeta	13.75

SWIMMING SUITS (of wool jersey)

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Bathing Caps and Shoes at moderate prices.

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ARE YOU GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP WARM WITHOUT COAL? You can, if you have a VAPOR-HEAT ATTACHMENT on your furnace. It is the only device that can keep you warm without coal. It is the only device that can keep you warm without coal. It is the only device that can keep you warm without coal.

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Nearly Opposite Hotel McAlpin.

Buffalo County agent, H. J. Smith, Southampton.
Schenectady County agent, John J. Cassidy, Kingston.
Queens County agent, R. C. Frielhoff, Bayshore.

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BLACK SATIN METEOR
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BLACK CREPE CHARMEUSE

Dep't for Imported and Special Costumes (Third Floor)

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Just Now! Risk of Depleted Reserves, Plans Drastic Summer Restrictions — Altman, Ryan & Co. is now offering a special offer on the Black Satin dresses. The offer is good for a limited time only. Don't miss it!

FROM JUNE 27, 1918